

# ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

A PARISH OF THE DIOCESE OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY

170 Lexington Avenue, Passaic, New Jersey, 07055  
www.stjohnspassaic.org

REV. FR. IGOR KSENIUK, Rector

973-473-1928 (Phone/Fax)  
646-387-5494 (cell)  
fr.igorksn@gmail.com

Department of  
**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**  
ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

## Standing Up to Those in Power

**On August 2<sup>nd</sup> we remember two men who, in different times and places and in very different ways, bravely confronted those in power. They are the Righteous Gamaliel and St. Basil, fool for Christ.**

We meet Gamaliel in the Book of Acts (5: 34-39). He was a Pharisee, and was Saint Paul's teacher. Paul emphasizes the high quality of his education in the Jewish faith by saying he was "brought up...at the feet of Gamaliel" (22:3). That would impress everyone, for Gamaliel was "held in honor by all the people" (5:34). And Gamaliel himself was impressive in his deliberate, sensible way of thinking. When others were so enraged at the preaching of Peter and the other apostles that they wanted to kill them, Gamaliel stood against his fellow members of the body of spiritual elders, the powerful Sanhedrin. He recognized that the teaching of the apostles might be "of God" and warned the elders that if it is, they would "not be able to overthrow them." The elders took his advice, and freed the apostles (who would bravely disregard their order to refrain from further preaching in Jesus' name.) Gamaliel's cool, reflective manner was effective, but it is very different from that of another man who confronted power: Basil, the holy fool.

Many people, at least the Orthodox and those who have visited Moscow, know that the beautiful church in the Kremlin is named Saint Basil's Cathedral. But some aren't aware that it is not named for Saint Basil the Great, the fourth-century Church father. The "Basil" it is named for was born in the 15th century, to a poor family who lived near Moscow. After spending some time in the

## Intercessory Prayers

We pray for all our fellow parishioners, and we pray especially for those who are incapable of being with us in church. Please keep in your prayers our Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Genevieve Bobenko, Michael Bzik, Mary Fechisin, Andrew Fabian, Mary Hadginske, Barbara Kary, Helen Kurnewitz, Margaret Lawler, Kathleen Lazarczyk, Marian Nagel, MaryAnn Rabakozi, Helen Rahnefeld, Anna Rozanovich, Maryann Stagen, Eva Stashitsky, Ann Velebir.

family work of shoemaking, he went to the big city, and lived primitively, wearing little clothing and utterly ignoring the rules of "polite society." He challenged those who cheated others or failed to help the poor, and confronted people openly with their sins. But everything he did was for others' salvation, as when he entered low, stinking taverns to minister lovingly to enslaved by drunkenness. While some people derided and abused him, many others recognized what he was doing and revered him.

Among these admirers was the Tsar himself, the ruler known as Ivan the Terrible. Saint Basil was able to scold the Tsar for letting his mind wander in church without making him angry; in fact, Ivan was greatly in awe of this man who could read his thoughts. Once during Great Lent, Basil offered the Tsar some meat. Ivan was shocked, and refused, saying that of course he did not eat flesh during the Fast. Basil replied that it mattered little whether he actually ate flesh, since he had killed so many people. In this way he urged Ivan to repent; his challenge to Ivan was a brave act of love. That kind of bravery – standing for truth against powerful forces – is the reason why these two men are remembered by the Church on this day.

## Birthday Greetings

Happy birthday to **Nicholas Bzik**, who celebrates his birthday this Wednesday; and **Andrew Fabian**, this Saturday. May God grant both of you and all who celebrate a birthday this week good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnohaja Lita!



## Announcements

◆ **Dormition Fast** starts this Tuesday, August 1, and will last until August 15. For two weeks we keep fasting in honor of the Falling Asleep of the Most Holy Theotokos. **Parish Confessions** during this fast are scheduled for Saturday, August 12 at 5pm. Fr. Igor will be also available to hear confessions following the Vespers.

◆ Save the date: **2017 Church School Conference** for New York City and New Jersey Deaneries will take place at Christ the Saviour Church in Paramus, NJ on **Saturday, August 12** from 10AM - 3PM. The theme is "Raising Our Young People As a Generation of Disciples and Leaders". Conference Leader: V. Rev. Dr. Joseph Purpura, Chairman of the Department of Youth and Parish Ministries of the Antiochian Archdiocese. The conference is open to teachers and parents as well. For more information please see a flyer at the bulletin board.

◆ Save the date: **Annual Diocesan Youth Day** at Six Flags Great Adventure is scheduled for **Thursday, August 24, 2017**. For more information and how to register, please see a flyer at the bulletin board or go to our Diocesan website [www.nynjoca.org](http://www.nynjoca.org)

◆ **Enjoy your vacation** but remember to visit the Orthodox Church at your destination. To search for a local parish go to [www.orthodoxyinamerica.org](http://www.orthodoxyinamerica.org) and enter your location in the search panel. If you plan to receive Holy Communion, be sure that the priest knows who you are before the Divine Liturgy. It is always good form to approach the Chalice knowing that the priest is informed about you. Have a wonderful and safe summer!



July 30, 2017

8<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

- **8:45am** – Hours
- **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy  
Epistle: 1 Cor. 1:10-18  
Gospel: Mt. 14:14-22
- **Coffee Hour** – everyone is invited for fellowship following the service

## Schedule of Services

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 5

6:00pm - Great Vespers with Litya & Blessing of Fruits

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 6 – TRANSFIGURATION

9:00am - Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Fruits